

1900

Uncle Dick to [Jackie], undated

(Author Unknown)

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Dear Jackie:-

Today - under separate cover (in a plain brown wrapper) - I sent you some gum and I hasten to write to assure you that said package in no way represents a Xmas present. I should very much hate to have you realize how cheap your Uncle Dick really is. I shudder to think of what blasphemous remarks might be dripping from the bitter tongues of those two avaricious and grasping brides of recent date - your mother and Aunt Jane. (Mag and Liz to you).

I hope you realize, too, that my failure to date to crash through with anything material to commemorate this much anticipated holiday is due mainly to a lack of opportunity at the present time and lack of foresight when opportunity was beating its knuckles to the bone. Of course, your prospects of pecuniary gain are being rapidly reduced by a motley gathering of addle-pated "swabbies" who, in spite of their almost incredible ignorance of such fine points as the law of averages, the number of cards of each suit, the number of suits, and the value of a dollar, manage, by the timely intervention of the fickle finger of Fate, to separate your poor Uncle Dick from most of his hard earned semolians. To digress just a bit, let me urge to you to redouble your attention to rummy, rook, bridge, and other related pastimes while your education in such matters is comparatively inexpensive.

But to get back to the gum. Lest you be inclined to consider this a rather hum-drum sort of gift, I will point out some of its possibilities.

First of all, you will probably be immediately beset by all the females for their self-assumed "cut". You have three choices here. Either you can take advantage of this situation to develop your resistance to their wily advances - which I strongly advise - or you can resell at OPA ceiling prices and make yourself a neat profit, or you may, by careful maneuvering, obtain the same results you used to get with that Mennen's Skin Bracer of mine!

If you cast all of these aside, you will find that you have a good supply for offering when the going gets tough and somebody is asking too many embarrassing questions. It is positively amazing how a person chewing gum (up to 3 packs) is handicapped in both volume and number of epithets or leading questions.

I recommend that only a small percent be ear marked for the under side of church pews, girl's hair, etc. This field loses it's appeal quickly and has no material advantage. Nor would I take too much to school. Teachers are notoriously sharp-eyed in this respect. And, although I am sure they are still working on that supply which I spit into their hands long ago, they may want some fresh. So watch it! Don't ever be taken in by their repeated denials of addiction to the habit - they don't get to be able to snap gum like Aunt Jane overnight!

There are many more angles to this thing, but I have to get back to work and, besides, your imagination was never stagnated.

Be good, Jackie. Take good care of my "girls" and don't let Gramp beat you with the pasteboards.

Love, Uncle Dick